



*Fiscal Year 2007
October 1—September 30*

A Report to the Citizens of Massachusetts

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What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a severe, chronic, often life-long disability that causes substantial limitations in several major life activities such as: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, the capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. It is attributable to a mental, emotional, sensory, and/or physical impairment that is apparent before the age of twenty-two. Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that over 115,000 Massachusetts citizens have a developmental disability.

Our Mission

To provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity and inclusion.

Our Values and Beliefs

Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

Individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live full, productive and independent lives in the community. They often require lifelong community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, that are most effective when provided in a coordinated manner.

The greatest impact on public policy occurs through self-advocacy.

Role of the Council

Created by federal law and funded by the United States Congress, the Council works to effect changes in public policy so that people with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered and supported to become more personally independent and economically productive. The Council develops a five-year plan to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. The Council's success is measured by both its ability to achieve the outcomes established by the State Plan, and the real impact that these outcomes have on the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Introduction

This is the first annual Citizen Centric Report to the people of the Commonwealth by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

The purpose of this report is to provide you information about the Council and its efforts to achieve its mission. The impetus for this report lies in our belief that government exists to serve citizens, that citizens have the right to an understanding of how their government operates and how their tax dollars are being spent, and that government agencies must be accountable to citizens.

Membership of the Council

Council members are appointed by the Governor for up to three-year terms, and include individuals with developmental disabilities, parents and other family members, representatives of state agencies that administer funds under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, and local and nongovernmental agencies.

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
1150 Hancock Street
Third Floor, Suite 300
Quincy, MA 02169-4340

Phone: 617.770.7676
Fax: 617.770.1987
TTY: 617.770.9499

www.mass.gov/mddc

Alternative formats of this report are available. We want your feedback. Please feel free to contact us.



Additional information is available at our website, www.mass.gov/mddc

State Plan 2007—2011

Annual Program Performance Report 2007

The State Plan: An Introduction

Consistent with federal law, Councils engage in activities to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and enhance participation in community life. The Council develops a five-year State Plan that includes a comprehensive review and analysis of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and goals to address barriers to inclusion. This plan is available on our website: www.mass.gov/mddc/2007-2011stateplan.pdf

Annual Program Performance Report: Progress and Achievements in 2007

Each year the Council submits a program performance report to the federal government detailing activities related to advocacy, capacity building and systemic change that will improve and enhance community supports and services. This report is available on our website: www.mass.gov/mddc/2007annualreport.pdf

Progress and Achievements

The Council made significant progress in the areas of employment, education, housing, self advocacy/leadership, community supports, and numerous cross-cutting activities to impact services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and families.

In employment, a demonstration project in Western Massachusetts focusing on mentoring people with developmental disabilities in starting and sustaining their own business has created an entrepreneurial network.

In education, the Council continued to support the Special Education Collaboration Project. The project focuses on student transition. A significant achievement is the new Concurrent Enrollment for Students with Disabilities, culminating in a \$1,575,000 line item in the state budget. The Council also partnered with Children's Hospital, Boston to implement a validated developmental screening tool to identify children at high risk for developmental needs, leading to a successful expanded project to identify barriers to services beyond the screening process.

In Housing, the Council partnered with the Boston Center for Independent Living to implement the *Principles in Action Project* promoting affordable, integrated housing for people with disabilities.

The Council continued to support self-advocacy and to develop strong leaders through the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series, our ongoing collaboration with MA Advocates Standing Strong, and the Consumer Empowerment Program.

In community supports the Council partnered with ARC Massachusetts to address access to community services. This initiative culminated in successful advocacy for \$21.5 million in increased state funding. The Council continued efforts with MA Families Organizing for Change to ensure effective implementation of Chapter 171, the Individual and Family Support law.

The Council continued its effective education of legislators and the public through the Legislative Advocacy Training Project, an orientation for freshman legislators, our 29th annual legislative reception, and the production and dissemination of numerous publications.

How is Performance Measured?

The performance of the Council is measured several ways, the most important being the achievement of federal performance measures. There are 96 individual measures within nine areas of emphasis. The Council's five year State Plan includes strategic goals and objectives in addressing the needs of Massachusetts citizens.

In 2007, the Council met or exceeded most of its targeted performance measures.

Highlights include (employment) \$27,264 leveraged for employment; (education) 457 students have necessary supports, 1,262 infants and children have needed services and supports, \$5,575,000 leveraged for education; (housing) 331 individuals have homes of their choice, \$508,750 leveraged for housing, 822 units of affordable and accessible housing made available; (self-advocacy/leadership) \$104,072 leveraged for self-advocacy programs, 535 people trained in self-advocacy, leadership, and self-determination; (community supports) 949 individuals received community supports, \$23,000,000 leveraged for community supports, 1,154 people trained in community supports; (cross-cutting) 1,097,000 people were reached through outreach activities, 6,056 people were active or trained in systems advocacy.

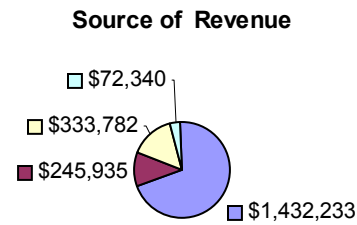


Fiscal Responsibility

Allocation of Resources

Primary Sources of Revenue

Source of Revenue	2007 Revenue (in \$)
Federal Funding	\$1,432,233
Commonwealth Non- Financial Match	\$245,935
Sub-Grant Non-Financial Match	\$333,782
DD Suite National Collaboration	\$72,340
Total Revenue	\$2,084,290



Note:

The Council is federally funded through formula grants authorized under Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000.

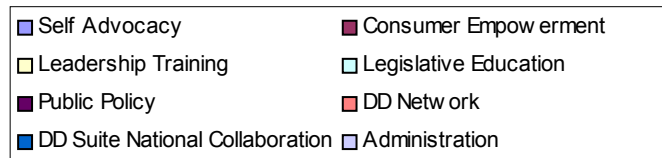
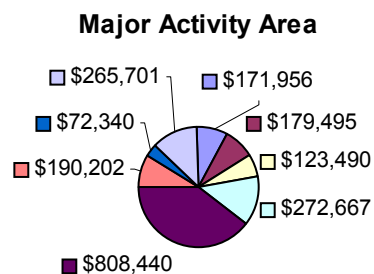
Primary Expenses

The financial mission of the Council is to maximize the usage of our federal awards, while leveraging additional resources from the Commonwealth; in partnerships, and with our grantees; to support meeting our State Plan goals and objectives.

By Functional Area	2007 Expense (in \$)
State Plan Implementation	\$1,818,589
Council Administration	\$265,701
DD Suite National Collaboration	\$72,340
Total Expense	\$2,084,290

By Area of Emphasis	2007 Expense (in \$)
Education	\$398,579
Employment	\$171,421
Housing	\$119,217
Healthcare	\$40,187
Quality Assurance	\$577,343
Community Supports	\$511,842
Administration	\$265,701
Total Expense	\$2,084,290

By Major Activity Area	2007 Expense (in \$)
Self Advocacy	\$171,956
Consumer Empowerment	\$179,495
Leadership Training	\$123,490
Legislative Education	\$272,667
Public Policy	\$808,440
DD Network	\$190,202
DD Suite National Collaboration	\$72,340
Administration	\$265,701
Total Expense	\$2,084,290



Independent Audit

The Council does not issue separate financial statements, however, the revenue and expenses of the Council are included in the Commonwealth's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Complete financial information is available at www.mass.gov/osc.



Additional information is available at the city's website, www.mass.gov/mddc.

Meeting the Challenge

State Trends: Citizen Summary

Funding for services and supports for people with developmental disabilities in the Fiscal Year 08 budget was essentially level, but in some cases funding was increased. Significant increases are still necessary to restore over \$300 million that was cut in previous years. In real dollars, spending would need to be increased by over \$1.5 billion just to maintain services at the level that existed in Fiscal Year 01. Massachusetts continues efforts to expand the use of waivers to reduce the number of people served in institutional settings, and continues efforts to transition people from nursing homes to community placements.

Litigation continues to slow the state's efforts to expand community based services and supports. In the ongoing case over the Commonwealth's efforts to close the Fernald State School, on August 14, 2007 the U.S. district court ordered that any communication between the Department of Mental Retardation and Fernald residents and their guardians that addresses choices for further residential placement must include Fernald among the options which residents and guardians may rank when expressing their preferences. On September 12, 2007 the Governor filed an appeal of the decision.

Another major barrier to enhancing community supports is the continued shortage of qualified workers to provide supports to people in the community. In addition, community provider agencies have received no 'cost of business' rate adjustments since the late 1980s, placing significant strain on their ability to provide quality services and supports. As a result the provider landscape is shifting to larger and fewer agencies, resulting in less choice for individuals.



DD Network Collaboration

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network is a collaborative of four organizations that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The network partners accomplish this mission through advocacy, education, research and dissemination of information.

The DD Network maintains an ongoing year long fellowship for people with developmental disabilities and family members to develop and enhance leadership

skills and knowledge of disability issues and systems advocacy. In addition, each network member provides support to the statewide self-advocacy organization to assist it in developing new leaders in self-advocacy.

The Fellowship has prepared graduates for greater opportunities in disability advocacy. Recent graduates have been accepted into the Robert F. Kennedy Public Policy Fellowship and the LEND graduate school program. One graduate is employed at the Council and the most of the more recent graduates was elected as chairperson of the statewide self advocacy organization.

The partners of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network are: the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, the Institute for Community Inclusion, the University of Massachusetts Medical School Shriver Center, and the Disability Law Center.

For more information please visit: <http://www.massddnetwork.org/>.

Reauthorization of the "DD Act"

The reauthorization of the DD Act is imperative to the needs of our most vulnerable American citizens – the estimated 4.5 million individuals with developmental disabilities.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is working collaboratively with Congress, with our sister agencies under the DD Act, and with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities DD Act Task Force to lay the foundation for a successful reauthorization of the DD Act, including: the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, representing the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the National Disability Rights Network, representing the Protection and Advocacy agencies.

Innovation

The Council developed a performance management application called 'DD Suite' that has been nominated for several prestigious national awards.

The Council has brought the DD Suite application to councils in more than 20 other states.

We are presently involved in a partnership consisting of 36 states who are investing more than \$120,000 to move the DD Suite to an online platform, providing greater efficiency for staff and improved transparency for citizens, along with greater operational efficiency and reduced operating costs.

